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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (Cancelled)

a standard degradation product for analysis of a sample containing (5Z,7E)-(1R,2R,3R)-2-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-9,10-secocholesta-5,7,10(19)-triene-1,3,25-triol, said composition containing as the standard degration product (5E,7E)-(1R,2R,3R)-2-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-9,10-secocholesta-5,7,10(19)-triene-1,3,25-triol.

Claim 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method of suppressing the generation of a degradation product in an oily preparation comprising (5Z,7E)-(1R,2R,3R)-2-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-9,10- secocholesta-5,7,10(19)-triene-1,3,25-triol, comprising adding dl- α -tocopherol to the preparation, wherein the degradation product is (5E,7E)-(1R,2R,3R)-2-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-9,10-secocholesta-5,7,10(19)-triene-1,3,25-triol.

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- 13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the amount of (5E,7E)-(1R,2R,3R)-2-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-9,10-secocholesta-5,7,10(19)-triene-1,3,25-triol generated in the preparation after 12-month storage at room temperature under shading is suppressed to 1% or less.
- 14. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 10, which is used as a standard of a degradation product in analysis of a preparation comprising (5Z,7E)-(1R,2R,3R)-2-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-9,10-secocholesta-5,7,10(19)-triene-1,3,25-triol.

Claims 15-16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A compound—for synthesizing vitamin—D compounds comprising of (5E,7E)—

(1R,2R,3R)-2-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-9,10-secocholesta-5,7,10(19)—triene-1,3,25-triol, for synthesizing vitamin D compounds.

18. (New) In a method for synthesizing a vitamin D compound comprising reacting an intermediate compound,

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the improvement wherein the intermediate compound is

(5E, 7E) - (1R, 2R, 3R) -2- (3-hydroxypropoxy) -9, 10-secocholesta-

5,7,10(19)-triene-1,3,25-triol.